

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DRC-01 /047 W

----- 007141

R 230515Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1472

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 2994

BEIRUT FOR LABOR ATTACHE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, PINS, JO

SUBJ: ELECTIONS FOR MEMBERS JORDANIAN FEDERATION OF TRADE

UNIONS GENERAL COUNCIL AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

SUMMARY: JFTU ELECTIONS BROUGHT IN GENERALLY PRO-GOVERNMENT SLATE, BUT RESULTS OF VOTING AND OFFICIAL COMMENTS SUGGEST LEFTIST AND PERHAPS ANTI-HASHEMITE PALESTINIAN/FEDAYEEN INFLUENCE STILL PRESENT LOCAL LABOR MOVEMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. 65 MEMBER GENERAL COUNCIL OF JORDANIAN FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS ELECTED OFFICERS OF COUNCIL, AS WELL AS 13 MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF FEDERATION MAY 20. SAMI HASAN MANSOUR, CONSERVATIVE AND PRO-GIVT HEAD OF TRANSPORT WORKERS FEDERATION AND LAND TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION, ELECTED PRESIDENT, WHILE IBRAHIM HADI, HEAD OF CHEMICAL WORKERS UNION, ELECTED VICE PRESIDENT. MANSOUR'S OPPONENT WAS SALIM HIJAZIN, HEAD OF HEALTH WORKERS UNION. ATTEMPT TO SELECT CANDIDATES FOR POST OF SEC GEN OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BROKE DOWN AND NEW ELECTION WILL BE HELD.

2. NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, WHICH WILL REPLACE TEMPORARY FIVE-MAN CARE-TAKER GROUP APPOINTED IN FEBRUARY 1974:

A. JAMAL NAJDAWI-PETROLEUM WORKERS

B. FAISAL HAJJOUJ-MUNICIPALITIES WORKERS

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C. KHALED AS-SALEH-MUNICIPALITIES UNION

D. MUHAMMED RABAB'A-PETROLEUM WORKERS
E. SULAIMAN HIJAZIN-MINE WORKERS
F. KHALED SHRAIM-MINE WORKERS
G. ALI BANI HANI-ELECTRICITY WORKERS
H. MAHMOUD HIRZALLAH-LAND TRANSPORT WORKERS
I. SHAHER AL-MAJALI-RAIL WORKERS (DEL TO ILO CONVENTION)
J. 'AHED QINTAR-AIR TRANSPORT WORKERS (DEL TO ILO CONVENTION)
K. AHMAD 'ASHI-LIGHT INDUSTRIES WORKERS
L. JAWDAT OTHMAN-FOODSTUFFS WORKERS
M. ABD AR-RAHMAN MAJALLI-NATURAL RESOURCE WORKERS.

3. JFTU AND MIN OF LABOR OFFICIALS PROTRAYED ELECTION RESULTS TO EMBOFF AS INDICATION OF RISING LEFTIST STRENGTH IN LABOR MOVEMENT (ALTHOUGH LABOR MIN CLAIMS 70 PERCENT OF UNIONS ELECTED PRO-GOVT HEADS) SAMI MANSOUR, SHAHIR MAJALLI, FORMER SEC GEN OF FED AND PRESENT HEAD OF RAILWAY WORKERS UNION, AND SAMIR QSOUS, CHAIRMAN OF ELECTION COMMITTEE AND REP OF LABOR DEPT., CLAIMED THAT MANSOUR ELECTED BY SMALLER MARGIN THAN ANTICIPATED (35 TO 29 VOTES). MANSOUR STATED TO EMBOFF THAT ON MAY 1 HE HAD WARNED KING HUSSEIN THAT SEP 1973 CLEMENCY FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS WOULD CREATE DIFFICULTIES FOR LABOR MOVEMENT, AND "THIS VOTE SHOWED THAT I WAS RIGHT". "COMMUNIST" INFLUENCE IN LABOR MOVEMENT INCREASING, HE SAID, ALTHOUGH OF 29 WHO VOTED FOR HIS OPPONENT, SAALIM HIJAZI, HEAD OF MINE WORKERS, "ONLY 20 ARE TRUE LEFTISTS. THE OTHERS ARE MERELY SUPPORTERS".

4. SOME CONFUSION SURROUNDED ATTEMPT TO SELECT CANDIDATES FOR SEC GEN ELECTION (DATE AS YET UNDECIDED). HAD BEEN ARRANGED THAT PRO-GOVERNMENT CANDIDATE AHID QINTAR WOULD EASILY DEFEAT LEFTIST RIVAL ABD AR-RAHMAN MAJALLI. YET PETROLEUM WORKERS UNION INSISTED IN PUTTING FORWARD ONE OF THEIR OWN MEN AS CANDIDATE (JAMAL NAJDAWI) WHICH CREATED POSSIBILITY OF SPLIT VOTE ON PRO-GOVT SIDE. QINTAR THEN WITHDREW TO ALLOW NAJDARI VICTORY; NAJDAWI DID SAME. SESSION THEN BROKE UP UNDER PROTEST FROM MAJALLI SUPPORTERS. QSOUS AND MANSOUR ASSURED EMBOFF THAT QINTAR WOULD EVENTUALLY BE ELECTED IN AS YET UNSCHEDULED ELECTION.

5. COMMENT: VICTORIOUS PRO-GOVERNMENT LABOR FACTION MAY HAVE OVERSTATED LEFTIST THREAT FOR BENEFIT EMBOFF, BUT THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT PRO-GOVT FORCES IN LABOR MOVEMENT ENCOUNTERED DIFF-
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ICULTIES FROM REFRACTORY ELEMENTS UNWILLING TO COOPERATE WITH GOVERNMENT IN RECENT ELECTIONS. (LACK OF COOPERATION AMONG UNRWA AND PETROLEUM WORKERS CAUSED INITIAL POSTPONEMENT ELECTION). AS A RESULT OF GOJ WORRIES OVER OUTSIDE AND PERHAPS ANTI-HASH-EMITE PALESTINIAN/FEDAYEEN INVOLVEMENT IN ELECTIONS, AND GOJ SAW FIT TO PLACE GENERAL INTELLIGENCE DIRECTORATE ELEMENTS IN POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY IN LABOR MIN JUST PRIOR TO ELECTIONS. ON BALANCE, GOJ HAS MANAGED, WITH SOME BUT NOT AGREGIOUS GOVT

INTERFERENCE, TO SLIP THROUGH RECENT ELECTIONS WITHOUT SIGN-
IFICANT POLITICAL FALL-OUT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR INSTITUTES, ELECTIONS, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974AMMAN02994
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740128-0974
From: AMMAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740525/aaaaavfm.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 AUG 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <04 MAR 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ELECTIONS FOR MEMBERS JORDANIAN FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS GENERAL COUNCIL AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
TAGS: ELAB, PINS, JO, JFTU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005